

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 to 9 without prejudice and add the following claims 10 to 18:

Claims 1 to 9 (canceled).

10(new). A method for controlling or regulating a generator, said generator (10) comprising three stator windings (U, V, W) and three generator terminals (K1.U, K1.V, K1.W) connected with the three stator windings respectively, and wherein said generator terminals are connected with a converter bridge (11) for producing a direct current (IG), said converter bridge including controllable switch elements (15 to 20), and means for controlling said switch elements are provided; said method comprising the steps of:

- a) measuring a current of said generator or said converter bridge with a current detector (24) to obtain a measured current value; and
- b) controlling said switch elements (15 to 20) of the converter bridge (11) according to said measured current value, said controlling comprising temporarily connecting at least one of said stator windings to a charge source (21), said charge source (21) being a battery or capacitor, independently of natural turn-on or ignition times of said switch elements, in order to supply said at least one of said stator windings with an additional charging current in addition to any induced current present in said stator windings during an otherwise currentless time interval, so that said generator is supplied with additional magnetizing current.

11(new). The method as defined in claim 10, wherein said additional charging current comprises a plurality of current pulses and times of feeding said current pulses into said stator windings (U, V, W) are selected so that an applied phase current is a predetermined minimum value.

12(new). The method as defined in claim 10, wherein said means for controlling said switch elements (15 to 20) comprises a logistics element (27) for setting a turn-on time and a longest on-time duration of at least one of said switch elements.

13(new). The method as defined in claim 10, wherein said means for controlling said switch elements comprises a comparator (25) and wherein said controlling comprises comparing, with said comparator (25), said measured current value with a respective predetermined maximum current value to produce a comparison output.

14(new). The method as defined in claim 13, wherein the measured current value is obtained by measuring a switch current passing through one of said switch elements (15 to 20) by means of said current detector (24).

15(new). The method as defined in claim 13, wherein the measured current value is obtained by measuring a stator winding current by means of said current detector (24).

16(new). The method as defined in claim 13, wherein the measured current value is obtained by measuring said direct current output by said converter bridge with said current detector (24).

17(new). The method as defined in claim 16, wherein said direct current and a winding current of the stator windings are both measured to obtain two actual current values and said controlling is performed according to said two actual current values.

18(new). The method as defined in claim 10, wherein the generator (10) is provided with an exciter winding (14) and further comprising regulating an output voltage of said generator by controlling an excitation current (I_{err}) passing through said exciter winding (14).